

VZCZCXRO5094

RR RUEHAST RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHDBU RUEHHM RUEHLH RUEHLN RUEHMA RUEHNEH  
RUEHPB RUEHPOD RUEHPW RUEHTM RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHNE #0617/01 0901254  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 311254Z MAR 09  
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 5960  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUEHZN/ENVIRONMENT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COLLECTIVE  
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC  
RUEHC/DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHDC  
RUCPDC/NOAA NMFS WASHINGTON DC  
RUEAEPA/EPA WASHDC  
RUEHRC/DEPT OF AGRICULTURE WASHDC  
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RHMFISS/HQ USSOCOM MACDILL AFB FL  
RHMFIUU/NGIC INTEL OPS CHARLOTTESVILLE VA  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC  
RUETIAA/DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD  
RUEHPH/CDC ATLANTA GA

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 000617

SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES/PCI, OES/STC, OES/SAT, OES/EGC, AND SCA/INS  
STATE FOR STAS  
DOE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
INTERIOR FOR FWS RILEY  
STATE PASS TO NSF FOR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [SENV](#) [TSPL](#) [TBIO](#) [ECON](#) [IN](#)

SUBJECT: NEW DELHI WEEKLY EST OFFICE HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE WEEK OF  
MARCH 23 TO MARCH 27, 2009

REF: New Delhi 453

¶1. Below is a compilation of Environment, Science, and Technology  
highlights from Embassy New Delhi for the week of March 23-27, 2009,  
including the following:

- Indo-German Southern Ocean Iron Fertilization Experiment Fails
- Indian Meteorological Department Gearing Up To Monitor Air  
Pollution Prior To Commonwealth Games
- Wildlife Crime Bureau to Probe Tiger Deaths
- Madhav National Park: A Park Management Success Story
- IT Industry Launches Environmental Initiative
- DRDO Develops Environmentally Safe Bio-Larvicide For Control of  
Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya Causing Mosquitoes
- CSIR Plans to Put All Research Output Online
- IIT Delhi Develops Self Cleaning Cotton Fabric Technology
- Preparations for India's IREC 2010 Move Forward

-----  
ENVIRONMENT  
-----

Indo-German Southern Ocean Iron Fertilization Experiment Fails

¶2. The German Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine  
Research and the Indian National Institute of Oceanography conducted  
a joint geo-engineering iron fertilization experiment from 7 January  
- 17 March 2009 in the Southwest Atlantic sector of the Southern  
Ocean. The expedition, called "LOHAFEX," LOHA meaning "iron" in  
Hindi and FEX standing for Fertilization Experiment, was carried out  
on board the German research vessel Polarstern. Although the  
majority of the 48 scientists involved in the project were Indian  
(29) and German (10), Italy, Spain, UK, France, and Italy also  
contributed scientific personnel. The iron fertilization was  
expected to lead to rapid growth of phytoplankton that utilize  
atmospheric carbon dioxide in their growth and naturally sequester  
CO2 on the bottom of the ocean when they die. Although the number  
of phytoplankton did increase dramatically after the sea was

fertilized with four tons of dissolved iron, most of the phytoplankton were quickly eaten by crustacean zooplankton, resulting in the release of CO<sub>2</sub> back into the atmosphere.

#### Indian Meteorological Department Gearing Up To Monitor Air Pollution Prior To Commonwealth Games

13. On March 23, World Meteorological Day, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Director-General, Mr. Ajit Tyagi, announced a nationwide project to upgrade and modernize India's air quality monitoring equipment in order to obtain better data on India's severe air pollution problem. The IMD is in talks with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to set up the first of the new air monitoring stations in the Delhi National Capital Region before the Commonwealth Games in October 2010.

#### Wildlife Crime Bureau to Probe Tiger Deaths

14. Twenty nine tigers have died in various national parks in India since November 2008 and although park authorities have claimed some of the deaths are due to natural causes, EST Office contacts believe poaching is once again on the rise. The two parks hardest hit are Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam which lost 10 tigers between November 2008 and January 2009 and Kanha National Park in Madhya Pradesh which has reported seven tiger deaths since November 2008. An alarmed Ministry of Environment and Forests has deployed teams from its Wildlife Crime Bureau to investigate the unusually high number of deaths, although no results have yet been reported.

#### Madhav National Park: A Park Management Success Story

NEW DELHI 00000617 002 OF 003

15. Concerted conservation and restoration efforts in Madhya Pradesh's Madhav National Park have paid off in the increased density of herbivore species and the presence of a male and female tiger. Alok Kumar, the Park Director since October 2006, is credited for the turning around the steep decline in herbivore and big cat populations by combining alternative livelihoods and schooling for villagers with get-tough law enforcement practices that penalize those who illegally enter the park and degrade the forest. The park is surrounded by 200 villages that had become dependent on the park for their livelihoods. Kumar instituted various measures such as round the clock patrolling and better coordination between the police, judiciary, and park management, all of which has resulted in increased convictions and fines. Approximately 16,000 USD has been collected in fines in the last two years. Better park management has also resulted in greater park revenue as the number of tourists visiting the park annually has increased from 14,000 to 20,000 since 2006.

#### IT Industry Launches Environmental Initiative

16. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) has launched a "Green IT Initiative" which lays out a three-point agenda to encourage the IT industry to adopt green technologies and practices; to assist other industries in using green IT equipment; and to transform IT sector employees into "green crusaders." NASSCOM has formed three working groups with representation from industry, NGOs and consultants which will formulate a roadmap over the next 12-24 months to achieve the goals of the initiative. NASSCOM Vice President Rajdeep Sahrawat said that the organization will also work with the government on green initiatives.

-----  
SCIENCE  
-----

#### CSIR Plans to Put All Research Output Online

17. India's Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), a group of 38 national laboratories under the Ministry of Science and Technology, plans to provide open access to all of its publications and research reports in order to facilitate better dissemination of advanced scientific information in India. Dr. Naresh Kumar, Head of

the Research and Development Planning Division of CSIR told ESTFSN that CSIR instructed all of its laboratories to begin the process of putting all CSIR-generated knowledge online. He noted that because over 90 percent of research in India was publicly funded, CSIR felt online access was necessary to provide research results to the largest possible audience. Although completing the process will take time, Dr. Kumar stated CSIR had already put two of its 17 journals, the Indian Journal of Biochemistry and Biophysics and the Indian Journal of Chemistry-Section A, online via the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources website (<http://nopr.niscair.res.in/>) with the remaining 15 to follow. NOTE: The journals published by the Indian Academy of Science are available online at <http://www.ias.ac.in/>. END NOTE.

-----  
TECHNOLOGY  
-----

DRDO Develops Environmentally Safe Bio-Larvicide For Control of Malaria, Dengue and Chikungunya Causing Mosquitoes

18. The Defense Research Lab located in Tezpur, Assam, a part of India's Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has recently reported isolating *Bacillus sphaericus* G.C. sub group IV bacteria from soil which is reported to be highly effective against *Culex* and *Anopheles* mosquito larvae as well as somewhat effective

NEW DELHI 00000617 003 OF 003

against *Aedes* mosquitos. The bacteria acts on mosquito larvae by producing an endotoxin that disintegrates the digestive tract resulting in paralysis and death. DRDO reports "amazing success" in extensive field trials which have resulted in the development of a bio-larvicide that is easy to handle, transport, store and apply in rural as well as urban areas and which is environmentally safe, even for application in drinking water.

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi Develops Self Cleaning Cotton Fabric Technology.

19. IIT Delhi reported in the Indian Journal of Fibre and Textile Research that they have developed a cotton fabric coating that has both self-cleaning and anti-bacterial properties. The technology is based on a nano-titanium dioxide coating with a particle size of less than 10 nanometers that does not require binders or cross-linkers. IIT Delhi claims this coating has superior self cleaning properties than current commercially available titanium dioxide coatings utilizing 25 nanometer particles and an acrylic binder. EST Office contacts at IIT Delhi stated the research was partly funded by Bangalore-based Resil Chemicals who plan on commercializing the new technology.

Preparations For India's IREC 2010 Move Forward

110. ESTOffs met with Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) Joint Secretary Gauri Singh, on March 26 at her request to discuss the Indian International Renewable Energy Conference (IREC) scheduled for February 2010. J/S Singh opened the discussion by noting OES Acting Assistant Secretary Harnish's March 2-3 visit to New Delhi to discuss lessons learned from the 2008 WIREC (reftel) was extremely useful to the Government of India as it helped catalyze GOI thinking across all relevant ministries. She noted India was now working to define the scientific and sectoral themes of the conference. She said MNRE hopes to have the broad technical program structure ready in the next two months. She added that MNRE had engaged with Germany, Norway and Australia, who have agreed to sponsor thematic sessions at IREC 2010 and also facilitate participation, including provision of travel funds, to less developed countries with whom they have ongoing partnerships. J/S Singh also mentioned she had been in close contact with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs who has agreed to help publicize IREC 2010 internationally via diplomatic efforts at Indian embassies. She expects a letter to issue from the Indian Foreign Minister soliciting participation in IREC 2010 in early June, 2009. J/S Singh concluded the meeting by calling for increased collaboration between India and the United States in the renewable energy sector, noting India was self-sufficient in terms of funding but needed

technical expertise.

WHITE